

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 6 October 2015

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Meehan, Thomas Joseph	i	Hangard Comm. Cem. Ext.	link
4 th Bn., C.M.G.C.	i	Somme, France	i
Private #174645	i	Plot 1 Row A Grave 19	i
Date of Death 09/08/1918	link	Date of Burial / Exhumation	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record	n/a	Graves Registration Report	7
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	3	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)	4	Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)	5	Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	6	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List		Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other		Reporting and Review	8

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 1 Row A Grave 19 at the Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension lists an Unknown Canadian Soldier of the 4th C.M.G. In 1918 that would be the 4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

There is only 1 member of that unit listed on the Vimy Memorial as being killed in action on August 9, 1918, that being Private Thomas Joseph Meehan #174645.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 1 Row A Grave 19 at the Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension are those of Private Thomas Joseph Meehan #174645 of the 4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps, killed in action north of Beaucourt, France on August 9, 1918.

The findings are based on the following:

1. The Circumstance of Death (COD) file for Private Meehan reports that he was killed in action on August 9, 1918, after he was reported missing from the transport stables at noon on that same date. His body was subsequently found in the hands of a burial party who had located it in a field north east of Beaucourt, having been killed by shell fire (Attachment #1). This is a most important report to this case, as it clarifies that he was not reported missing "on or before August 9th" but at exactly noon on August 9, 1918 he was seen at the stables.
2. Despite the COD reporting that his body was in the hands of a burial party, there is no further mention of the location of his grave. His CEF Canada War Register notes that his name was to be added to the Vimy Memorial, as a soldier with no known grave (Attachment #2).
3. The War Diary of the 8th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps confirms that the unit in which Private Meehan was serving at the time of his death was in the area where his demise was reported. On the 8 August 1918 the Advanced Battalion H.Q. moved forward to Demuin (Map Coordinates 66E D1 c.5.2). On 9 August the force was in the vicinity of Cayeu Wood (Attachment #3a). The death of 2 OR (*Other Ranks*) is reported, those being [Private Archibald Riggs](#) and [Private Thomas Meehan](#). This movement placed the 4th Battalion near the woods north east of Beaucourt at Map 66E Sector D18 Grid c (Attachment #3b). The death of Private Meehan (*sic Meighan*) is again referenced in the summary of the No. 1 Company Transport resume for August 1918 (Attachment #3c).
4. The overall area for this action is shown on an extract of [Nicholson Map 11](#) denoting the Battle of Amiens from 8 August 1918 to 18 August 1918. The area discussed in the war diary showing the general location of the 4th Canadian Division, hence the 4th Battalion CMGC, is marked in the green square (Attachment #4).
5. The precise locations mentioned in the War Diary of 8 and 9 August 1918 are depicted in an extract of the combined trench map identified as "[Rosieres \(Combined Sheet\) 62d.SE, 62c.SW, 66e.NE, 66d.NW](#)" from the Lloyd Reeds Collection, McMaster University Digital Archives. The map has been marked to show the points noted in the war diary (Attachment #5).
6. As noted in Items #1 and #3 above, there were only two (2) reported casualties in the 4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps on August 9, 1918. Due to the large number of deaths on August 8, 1918 it was important to be sure that the deaths reported in the war diary matched what was reported by the

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (Attachment #6). This information confirms that Private Riggs and Private Meehan were the two killed on August 9, 1918. Only Private Meehan is reported as having no known grave and is thus commemorated on the Vimy Memorial. Private Riggs is buried in Grave 6.A.9 at the Crouy British Cemetery.

7. The Graves Registration Report Form (GRRF) for the Hangard Communal Cemetery Extension notes that there is an Unknown Canadian Soldier of the 4th C.M.G. with a date of death of 9-8-1918 buried in Plot 1 Row A Grave 19 (Attachment #7). As we know that there is only one member of the battalion that meets all of those characteristics, that the remains in that grave are those of Private Thomas Joseph Meehan #174645.

Action Required:

The "Investigative Report" has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #8).

The results of the investigation are conclusive that the remains in Grave 1.A.19 are those of Private Thomas Joseph Meehan #174645, 4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

ATTACHMENT #1

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
174645.	Private.	MEEHAN,	Thomas Joseph.
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
4th Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps.	9-8-18.	649-M-22535.	Roman Catholic.
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY			
<p>"Killed in Action."</p> <p>He belonged to the Transport Section of his Battery and on August, 9th, 1918, at stables, about twelve o'clock, noon, he was missing. The Transport Sergeant went in search of him and found his body in the hands of a burial party who had found it in a field North East of Beaumont, he having been killed by shell fire.</p>			
10. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
<p>NOTE.—Items 11, 12 and 13 are not to be completed until given is permanently located.</p>			
11. CEMETERY	12. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	13. GRAVE LOCATION	14. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave Path Row	
15. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	16. EXPOSURE NO.	17. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
18. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

M. E. H. 2013
12th-12-19
H. Q. 17720-1000
J. L. 1010-10-10 1000

MEB.

ATTACHMENT #2

Form E. 13
1897 6m. 21/5/18 D. 362

Reg. No. 174645. Rank Pte. Name MEEHAN, T. J. File No. R.L. 83168

Unit M.G. Corps 4th Bn.

Date of Casualty	Nature and Place of Casualty	Next-of-Kin
9-8-18.	KILLED IN ACTION.	
Published on D.C.L.		
No. A.294.		
Date 18-8-18.		

Unconfirmed Burial Report	Grave No.	Authority	Report of Circumstances of Casualty	
<p>VIMY MEMORIAL</p>			Received from Unit	Forwarded
			Date 23-9-18	Ottawa 2-10-18
			Next-of-Kin	
			Written For	A.A.G. Written
			Date	Date

Confirmed Burial Report	Grave No.	Authority	Burial Report Advised to Ottawa and Next-of-Kin	
			Ottawa	
			Next-of-Kin	

Revised Burial Report	Grave No.	Authority	Revised Report Advised to Ottawa and Next-of-Kin	
			Ottawa	
			Next-of-Kin	

Page No.	WAR DIARY	Army Form C. 2118.
	or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.	
	(Please heading not required)	
Place	Date	Hour
8th	4.30 AM	Zero Hour. 32 guns of No 3 Company plus two guns of No 2 Company with their crews move forward in 54 tanks to be deposited on the final objective. (Dotted blue line) No 2 Company move forward in support of the 11th and 18th Odn. Inf. Bde. No 1 Company in Divisional Reserve, move forward with the 10th Odn. Inf. Bde. The individual movements of these Companies are shown in the appendices hereto. As the tanks formed special targets for the enemy No 3 Company suffered somewhat heavily in the casualties. All ranks did splendid work throughout the day, but special mention for courage and exceptional good work under heavy fire must be made of:- Captain W.G. Williams. Lieutenant's O.B. Eaton, D. McGillivray and F.M. McDonald. and Sergeants G.W. Rogers, J. Cairn. L.R. Hanaywide. L.N. Tilley, C.V. Priddett. H.G. Williams C.D. Lloyd, and M. Stear.
	8.00 PM	Advanced Battalion Headquarters moved forward to DEMULIN (D 1 o S.E.) Casualties:- Killed- Lieuts K. Lorimer, D. Hamilton, and 18 other ranks. Taken Prisoners - Lieut J.A.S. Gardner and 2 other ranks. Missing - 11 other ranks. Wounded - Capt H.A. Peverley M.O. 34 other ranks.
9th.		Machine Guns of No 2 Company and the remaining guns of No 3 Company were in positions during the early morning behind the front line to check counter-attack by the enemy. No 1 Company was in support east of CAIRN WOOD. The afternoon was devoted to re-organising of No 3 and 2 Companies. 13 Machine Guns were received from Ordnance to replace those destroyed of No 3 Company Casualties for the day:- 2 other ranks killed. [REDACTED] 1 other rank wounded. Throughout the night the enemy heavily bombed the roads, woods and valleys behind the line. Battalion Headquarters, and No 2 Company arrived at 0.5 a.m. near HOUGHES at 2.00 A.M. having taken 7 hours to move from BOVSE WOOD a distance of 9 miles. Nos 1 and 3 Companies reached Camp about 6.00 A.M. BOS boxes 3.A.A. were brought from BRINE-WY-AMERDIS by lorry and a dump established in the forward area at E 19 o 4.4
10th.	2.30 AM	S 18V (Appendix "B") issued giving details of attack to be carried out.
	6.30 AM	Battalion Advanced Headquarters move to E 11 o S.E. South-East of CAIRN. "A" Battery attach to the 72nd Bn and "C" Battery attach to the 85th Bn move into action [REDACTED]

WAR DIARY OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.			Army Form C. 2118.
<small>(Brass heading not required.)</small> Summary of Events and Information			Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour	
ADDENDA. COURSES - Captain H.A. Fowler M.C. Lieut J.M. Enstlinger. and 4 other ranks proceeded to 54th Course at G.H.Q. Machine Gun School CAMBERS. 22-8-18. Lieut F.C. Mandel M.C. Lieut G.T. Perkins. Lieut H.R. Simpson, and 17 other ranks returned from Course at G.C.H.Q. School. 12-8-18.			
CASUALTIES.- KILLED - 2 Officers. 16 Other ranks. Lieut K Lorimer. "J" Battery 8-8-18. Gun shot wound. Buried- Row "B" Grave 32 D 23 c 7.7 DEMUIN MAP. Lieut D-Hamilton. "K" " " " Gun shot wound. Buried - J.5.b.5.8 DEMUIN MAP. Gun shot wound.			
	174445	Pte Meahan T.J. "C" Tpt.	9-8-18.
	760159	Sgtl Brister S. "K" Bty	8-8-18
	463553	Pte Stephens W.C. "K" Bty	"
	1063110	Pte Bernard J.B. "J" Bty	"
	878385	Pte Harts C.F. "J" Bty	"
	207192	Pte Doyle R.M. "K" Bty	"
	916921	Pte Grassick K.E. "B" Bty	11-8-18
	414508	Sgt Dewar G.C. "K" Bty	8-8-18
	1003084	Cpl Gilchrist H.M. "J" Bty	"
	728001	Pte Yates W.M. "K" Bty	"
	925028	Pte Davies R.A. "K" Bty	"
	135761	Pte Keane H.W. "K" Bty	"
	514401	Pte Passfield H.M. "J" Bty	"
	222442	Cpl Unberger W.E. "K" Bty	"
	222442	A/Sgt Ryan J. "K" Bty	"
	222442	Pte Anderson H.J. "K" Bty	8-8-18
			Buried J.5.b.5.8
			Buried J.5.b.5.8
			Buried E 24 c 95.60
			Sheet 66B SE. 1/20,000
			Buried J.5.b.5.8.
			Buried-Row B Grave 32
			D 23.c.7.7
			Plot 1 Row A F 16a1090
			Row A. Grave 21
			K.2.a.7.7.

ATTACHMENT #3(b)

APP C

4th Battalion Canadian Machine Gun Corps.

S.I.C. 111

D.M.G.C. I. INSTRUCTIONS No - 2.

D.M.G.C.
S.I.C.

1. CONCENTRATION.
(a) On completion of moves night 6th/7th, all Companies will return to tactical Command of D.M.G.C. with the following exceptions:-
(1) 1 Battery No 2 Company with 11th Cdn. Inf. Bde.
(11) 1 " " " " 12th Cdn. Inf. Bde.
(b) Battalion will be concentrated in BOYD WOOD where transport lines and four Headquarters will be established.
2. ASSEMBLY
On night 7th/8th, the following personnel and transport will be assembled under D.M.G.C. No 1 Company in area shown on tracing D.M.G.C. 4
(a) 4 Batteries of No 1 Company.
(b) 2 " (Less 2 guns) of No 2 Company.
3. MOVES.
(a) The move to assembly area of troops mentioned in Para 2 above will be carried out under Command of Major J.C. BRITTON.
(b) Route is shown in RED and YELLOW on attached tracing and column will follow trail of 11th Cdn. Inf. Bde group.
(c) Time of starting from S. 29, C. 5, 5: BOYD WOOD - 10.15 PM.
(d) Arrival at Assembly Area will be notified to D.M.G.C. with whom communication will be maintained.
(e) D.M.G.C. will be at 4th Canadian Divisional Headquarters (Advanced) at 7.15 to 9.0.
(f) Instructions for move forward from assembly area will be notified by zero; 2 runners will report to D.M.G.C. and remain at Div H.Q. to convey these instructions to Major J.C. BRITTON.
4. ROUTE.
(a) BOYD ROAD from Assembly Area across DOLLART BRIDGE thence to D. 18.0 via DEPUY and CHAUDE WOOD. Column should skirt south edge of DEPUY VILLAGE if possible.

ATTACHMENT #3(c)

4th BATTALION CANADIAN MACHINE GUN COPS.

APPENDIX ZL

RESUME- No 1 Company Transport for month of AUGUST 1918.

1st. At MADAGASCAR CORNER.

2nd. Moved at 9.00 AM with B Echelon transport to AGNEZ LES DUISANS. and joined A Echelon. Moved at 9.50 PM to BAGNEAU south of DOULLENS. A distance of approximately 43 Kilometers. Weather wet.

3rd. Moved at 12 PM to BELLOY SUR SOMME and camped about three kilometers down the river.

5th. Remained in camp. Weather wet. Moved at 6.00 PM to PICQUIGNY and joined the company moving with them to PISSY.

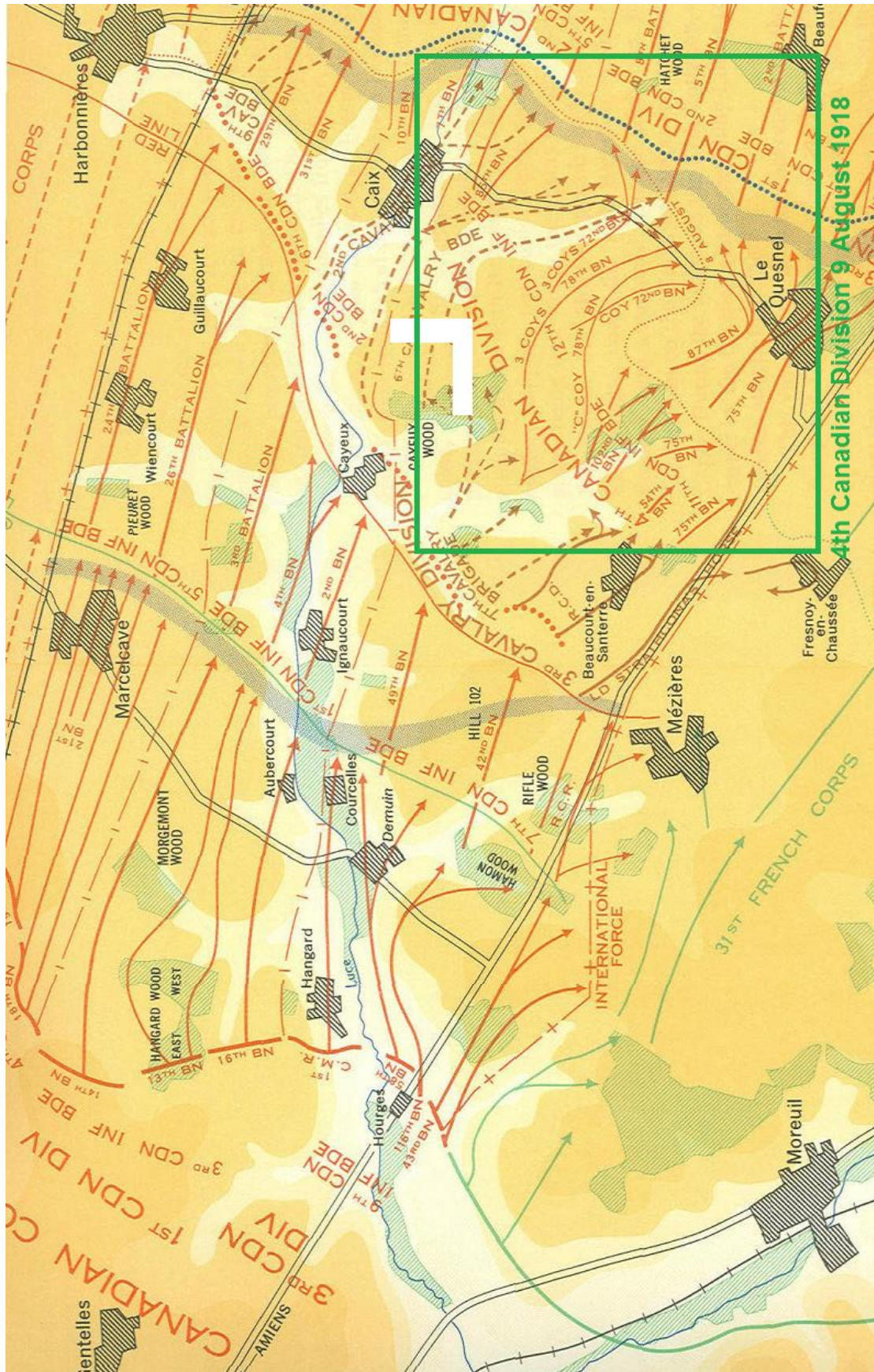
6th. Moved at 10 PM to BOVES WOOD. Weather cloudy.

7th. Remained at BOVES WOOD.

8th. Moved at 8.00 PM to East of GENTELLES WOOD and remained there night of 8th/9th.

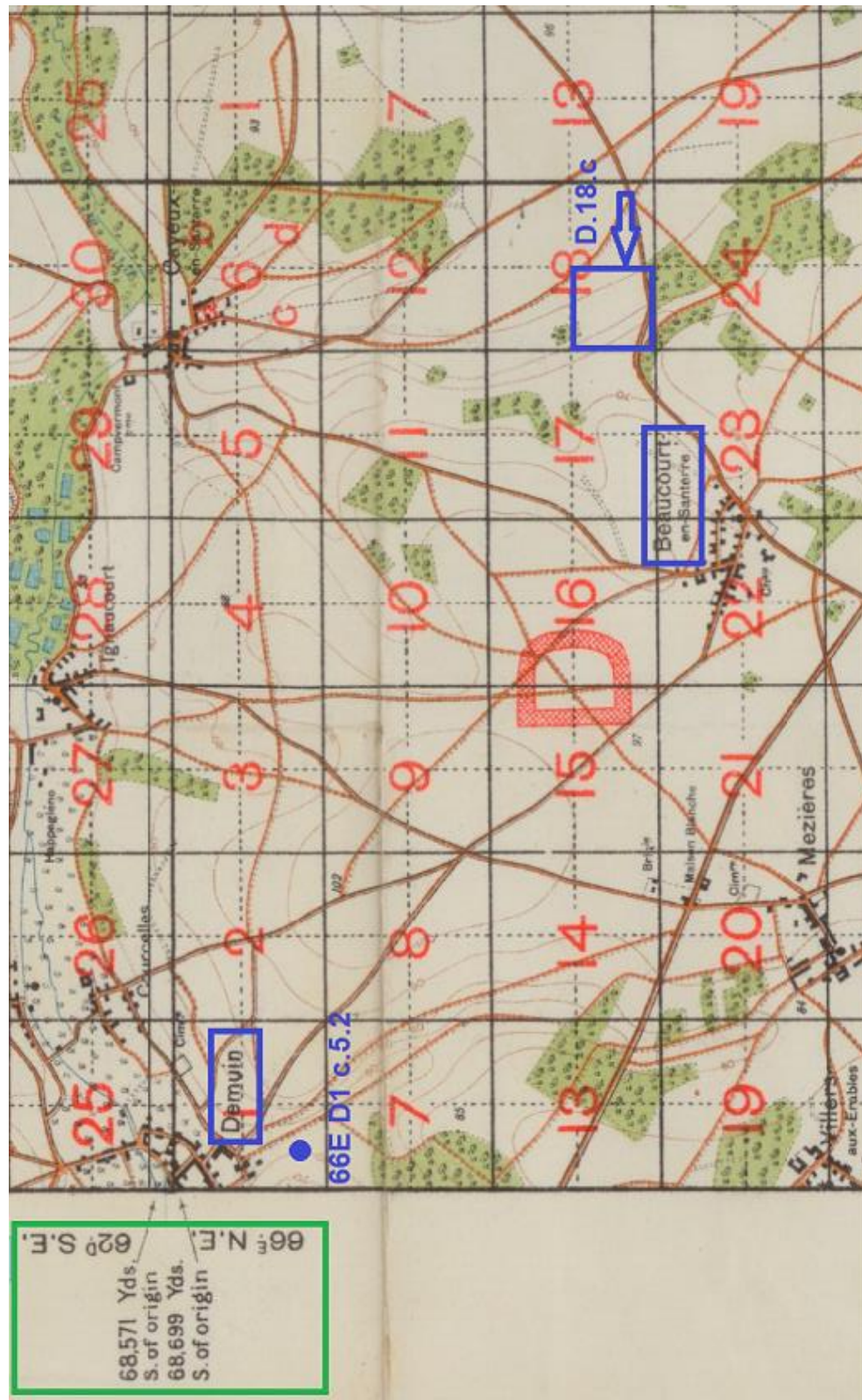
9th. Moved to brick wall at HANGARD. Driver Meighan was killed.

ATTACHMENT #4



ATTACHMENT #5

[Rosieres \(Combined Sheet\) 62d.SE, 62c.SW, 66e.NE, 66d.NW](#)



ATTACHMENT #6

surname	forename	initials	Date	rank	#	Cemetery or Memorial	Grave
KIA August 8, 1918							
LORIMER	KENNETH	K	08-08-18	3 Lieutenant		BEAUCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY	B. 4.
HAMILTON		D	08-08-18	3 Lieutenant		CAIX BRITISH CEMETERY	I. N. 9.
DEWAR	GORDON WILLIAM	G W	08-08-18	6 Sergeant	'414508'	CAIX BRITISH CEMETERY	II. C. 17.
MONDS	EDWARD GEORGE	E G	08-08-18	6 Sergeant	'799497'	VIMY MEMORIAL	
BRISTER		S	08-08-18	8 Corporal	'760159'	CAIX BRITISH CEMETERY	I. D. 3.
GILCHRIST	HUGH MILFOY	H M	08-08-18	8 Corporal	'1003034'	CAIX BRITISH CEMETERY	I. D. 4.
HUNT	ERNEST WENDOVER	E W	08-08-18	8 Corporal	'163489'	VIMY MEMORIAL	
PASSFIELD		H M	08-08-18	Private	'514401'	BEAUCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY	B. 3.
BLEVENS		R A	08-08-18	Private	'925038'	CAIX BRITISH CEMETERY	I. D. 10.
DOYLE	ROBERT M.	R M	08-08-18	Private	'207912'	CAIX BRITISH CEMETERY	II. C. 18.
HARTE		C F	08-08-18	Private	'878385'	CAIX BRITISH CEMETERY	I. D. 11.
KEENE	HARRY WILLIAM	H W	08-08-18	Private	'135761'	CAIX BRITISH CEMETERY	I. D. 7.
STEPHENS	WILLIAM	W	08-08-18	Private	'463553'	CAIX BRITISH CEMETERY	II. C. 19.
YATES	WILLIAM MICHAEL	W M	08-08-18	Private	'725001'	CAIX BRITISH CEMETERY	I. N. 8.
ANDERSON		H J	08-08-18	Private	'237507'	LE QUESNEL COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION	A. 23.
BERNARD	JOHN BAXTER	J B	08-08-18	Private	'1053110'	VIMY MEMORIAL	
CHALMERS	ROBERT	R	08-08-18	Private	'1003425'	VIMY MEMORIAL	
EDWARDS	JOHN	J	08-08-18	Private	'282130'	VIMY MEMORIAL	
JEWELL	HORACE FREDERICK	H F	08-08-18	Private	'1030563'	VIMY MEMORIAL	
KNAPP	WALTER RUSSELL	W R	08-08-18	Private	'832080'	VIMY MEMORIAL	
MILHOLM	WILLIAM STRUTHERS	W S	08-08-18	Private	'130171'	VIMY MEMORIAL	
UNWIN	WILLIAM THOMAS	W T	08-08-18	Private	'791212'	VIMY MEMORIAL	
KIA August 9, 1918							
RIGGS	ARCHIBALD JOHN	A J	09-08-18	Private	'883083'	CROUY BRITISH CEMETERY, CROUY-SUR-SOMME	VI. A. 9.
MEEHAN	THOMAS JOSEPH	T J	09-08-18	Private	'174645'	VIMY MEMORIAL	

ATTACHMENT #7

2nd Region Serial
No. 813. COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Commune:- HANGARD.
Dept:- SOMME. REPORT No. 1. SCHEDULE No. 20.

This report cancels 4th A.S.no. 1935 Rpt 1. Sch

PLACE OF BURIAL HANGARD COMMUNAL CEMETERY, MILITARY EXTENSION.

Map Reference 62D. 1/40,000. U.29. b. 6. 1.

The following are buried here:— Graves read from Right to Left.

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
<u>PLOT 1. ROW A.</u>						
1st C.M.R.	187209.	MORRIS	Pte D.	9-8-18.	E.	20 9.✓
4th C.M.G.		UNKNOWN CANADIAN	SOLDIER.	do.	E.	19 10.✓
3rd Canadian Fld Amb.	92475.	MONTIER	Pte C.V.	do.	E.	18 11.✓
3rd C.M.G.	799924.	SANDS	Cpl A.	do.	E.	17 12.✓
5th Canadians.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	L/Cpl	9-8-18.	E.	16 13.✓
16th Canadians.	721174.	LYONS	Pte C.E.	do.	E.	15 14.✓
do. do.	736805.	BAHM	Pte L.W.	do.	E.	14 15.✓
do. do.	871306.	JUFFS	Pte R.E.	do.	E.	13 16.✓
16th Canadians.	693235.	ARTHUR	Pte B.	9-8-18.	E.	12 17.✓
do. do.	748749.	ABRAHAM	Pte P.	do.	E.	11 18.✓
do. do.	16832.	WILLIAMS	Pte A.W.	do.	E.	10 19.✓
do. do.	700254.	BARR	Pte F.	do.	E.	9 20.✓

Certified complete & correct.

ENTERED 209 2/1
SLIP CHECKED 9/18-3-21
12.24

MAJOR.
D.A.D.G.R. & E.
Aisne & Marne Area.

(G 31 5) W3160—P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV(P1024) Forms/W3372/8

ATTACHMENT #8

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author
Timothy McTague	Private Researcher CEF Study Group	timmct@verizon.net	Report Reviewer